

Appl. No. 09/975,537
Amdt. Dated October 8, 2003
Reply to Office action of May 12, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A fence tape, rope or wire for transmitting an electric current to an animal that touches the fence tape, rope or wire ~~(1;7)~~, comprising

an electrically substantially non-conductive support structure ~~(2;8)~~ and an electrically conductive conduction structure at least locally exposed electrically to the environment, having at least two different, electrically conductive materials having mutually distinctive electrical and mechanical properties, a first one of the materials having a better electrical conductivity than the second one of the materials, and the second one of the materials having a greater resistance to tensile and bending loads than the first one of the materials, the conduction structure comprising at least one composite filament ~~(3;9;10;13)~~, having, viewed in cross section, a conduction zone ~~(4;11;14)~~ from the first, electrically better conducting one of the materials, and a self-supporting support zone ~~(5;12;15)~~ from the second one of the materials, being the stronger material as to tensile and bending loadability, wherein the conduction zone ~~(4)~~ constitutes a core of the at least one filament ~~(3)~~, and wherein the support zone ~~(5)~~ constitutes a jacket of the at least one filament ~~(3)~~, which envelops the core, wherein the conduction zone is in adhesion-free contact with the support zone.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): A fence tape, rope or wire according to claim 1, wherein the material of the support zone ~~(5)~~ is corrosion-resistant steel.

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Claim 4 (currently amended): A fence tape, rope or wire according to claim 1, wherein the material of the conduction zone (4) is substantially copper.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A fence tape, rope or wire ~~according to claim 3,~~
for transmitting an electric current to an animal that touches the fence tape, rope or wire, comprising:

an electrically substantially non-conductive support structure, and
an electrically conductive conduction structure at least locally exposed
electrically to the environment, having at least two different, electrically conductive
materials having mutually distinctive electrical and mechanical properties, a first one
of the materials having a better electrical conductivity than the second one of the
materials, and the second one of the materials having a greater resistance to tensile
and bending loads than the first one of the materials, the conduction structure
comprising at least one composite filament having, viewed in cross section, a
conduction zone from the first, electrically better conducting one of the materials,
and a self-supporting support zone from the second one of the materials, being the
stronger material as to tensile and bending loadability, wherein the conduction zone
constitutes a core of the at least one filament, and wherein the support zone
constitutes a jacket of the at least one filament, which envelops the core, wherein
the at least one filament (3; 10; 13) has a cross-sectional area of which at least 5%
and less than 20% forms part of the support zone (5).

Claim 6 (currently amended): An electrically conductive filament for a fence tape, rope or wire (1; 7) having a diameter between 0.05 mm and 1 mm, having a composite structure having at least two different, electrically conductive materials having mutually distinctive electrical and mechanical properties, a first one of the materials having a better electrical conductivity than the second one of the materials, and the second one of said materials having a greater resistance to

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tensile and bending loads, while, viewed in cross section, a conduction zone (4; 44; 44) is manufactured from the first, electrically better conductive one of the materials, and a self-supporting support zone (5; 42; 45) is manufactured from the second one of the materials, being the stronger material as to tensile and bending loadability,

wherein the conduction zone (4) forms a core and wherein the support zone (5) forms a jacket which envelops the core (4), wherein the conduction zone is in adhesion-free contact with the support zone.

Claim 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (currently amended): A filament according to claim 6, wherein the material of the support zone (5) is corrosion-resistant steel.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A filament according to claim 6, wherein the material of the conduction zone (4) is substantially copper.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An electrically conductive filament according to claim 8, having for a fence tape, rope or wire having a diameter between 0.05 mm and 1 mm, having a composite structure having at least two different, electrically conductive materials having mutually distinctive electrical and mechanical properties, a first one of the materials having a better electrical conductivity than the second one of the materials, and the second one of said materials having a greater resistance to tensile and bending loads, while, viewed in cross section, a conduction zone is manufactured from the first, electrically better conductive one of the materials, and a self-supporting support zone is manufactured from the second one of the materials, being the stronger material as to tensile and bending loadability,

wherein the conduction zone forms a core and wherein the support zone forms a jacket which envelops the core, and

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wherein the filament has a cross-sectional area of which at least 5% and less than 20% forms part of the support zone~~(5)~~.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A fence tape, rope or wire according to claim 4, wherein the at least one filament ~~(3, 10, 13)~~ has a cross-sectional area of which at least 5% forms part of the support zone ~~(5)~~.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A filament according to claim 9, having a cross-sectional area of which at least 5% forms part of the support zone ~~(5)~~.

Claim 13 (new): A fence tape, rope or wire according to claim 1, wherein the at least one filament has a cross-sectional area of which at least 5% forms part of the support zone.